

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 5, 1874, with transcript

Home, November 5th, 74. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Your wisest course would be to sell your plans to Messrs. Sanders and Hubbard. If Mr. S. sees a million in the idea, he will probably give you \$10,000 for his share and Mr. H. will do the same. You can't work out the scheme without neglecting your other business. "A bird in the hand" though smaller is better than a score of big ones with their tails unsalted. Take what you can get at once. Another point, the time that you occupy in the business should be paid for by your partners. This is a legitimate thing pending their undertaking. If your time is paid for, you might then employ an associate but otherwise you should not. Take only as much work as you can accomplish yourself, selecting of course, the best that offers, and let the rest wait. I hope your lecture went off well last night, such a topic would give you very little trouble in preparation. Our arrangements are still incomplete so that I don't know whether D. C. B. and I will visit Boston. I shall write to Prof. Munro at the earliest possible day. I hope you got the saw. I sent it by Express All well. Love from all.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.